

A Poor Man Will Now Dispense Uncle Sam's Hundreds of Millions

Representative John Joseph Fitzgerald Will Head Committee on Appropriations in Next Congress.

BY JAMES B. MORROW.

GOING to the mantelpiece of his plainly furnished sitting room, which he hires by the month in Washington, John Joseph Fitzgerald pointed to a group photograph of a mother and her six children.

"Those are the youngsters," he said, mixing some pride and considerable affection with his smile, "who keep me busy with the fundamental questions of life. They are ultimate consumers, and their appetites, I am glad to say, couldn't be improved."

In appearance John Joseph looks enough like Theodore Roosevelt to be his younger and smaller brother, though his mustache is redder, his hair is blonder and thinner and his eyes are grayer, but not so round or large. While he lacks Roosevelt's vocal energy and fluency, he is a ready man of flaming words and will be heard all over the land from now on until after the campaign of 1912.

The Democrats will centre their voices and efforts next year on tariff reform, the cost of living and the tyranny of the trusts. Economy, however, as a regular quadrennial issue will not be overlooked. Fitzgerald, as chairman of the Committee on Appropriations in the House of Representatives, will attempt to reduce national expenses during the first regular session of the 62d Congress, which convenes in December, and to prove by figures that the Republicans and Democrats have been extravagant; but he will omit the latter from his censure. Underwood, of Alabama, will write the campaign tariff bills. Fitzgerald, of New York, will try to excite the country with his tables of dire statistics and by waving the red flag of the auctioneer on the front steps of the national Treasury.

KNOWS VALUE OF MONEY.

Aside from political ambitions and outside of political considerations, it is well to have a poor man with six children at the head of the House Committee on Appropriations. Such a man has a practical knowledge of the value of money. His own mathematics are reduced to cents and the price of shoes becomes a personal problem. The word "millions" is instinctively associated with himself even while he is financing for his country and is thinking of battleships, harbors and public buildings. Tawney, of Minnesota, formerly a blacksmith, now a lawyer without much property, who is to be displaced by Fitzgerald, has fought bravely and intelligently against prodigality. Holman, of Indiana, weasel-eyed, chewing incessantly, an economical person in rusty black, was called a skinflint and was generally despised, but he saved the United States many millions of dollars by his unvaried and rasping objections. The Senate has increased appropriations and not reduced them.

"This is a billion dollar country," Thomas B. Reed exclaimed, in excusing the money bills of the 51st Congress. Since then it has grown to be a two billion dollar country, and Tawney predicts that it will be a four billion dollar country within a few years if the pressure for public funds continues. The matter is brought home to every man or woman, whether a worker or an owner of property, by the certainty that if expenses are not kept in check new taxes will have to be laid and collected. It does not follow that a tax on income will be paid by the rich and well to do exclusively.

One of the accepted principles of respectable existence is that every one should pay for what he enjoys or uses. The principle is strongly established in Congress. No man of spirit, it is argued, wants his food, clothing or rent for nothing. Nor should he accept government as a gift from any class of his fellow citizens. Government can be a form of charity, as bread is given to the needy, but the recipient parts with his independence and identity. The men who pay for government will control government finally.

A republic could be turned into an aristocracy by methods of taxation. An income tax—and it seems to be sure if expenditures keep increasing—may include the lawyer and doctor as well as the mechanic and day laborer—graded, of course, with respect to earnings, but payable by everybody. So the finances of the national government concern all workers and all capitalists.

WILL BE IN LIMELIGHT.

Just now Fitzgerald is potential by reason of his position. Presumably, he will deliver a good many stump speeches in Congress. It is probable that he will pare his supply bills to the bone for political effect, knowing that a Republican Senate will mark his figures up, notwithstanding his show of disgust and thunderlike protest. Doubtless such a man as Tawney would undertake the same performance were political conditions reversed. Congress is always a chessboard previous to the solemn efforts of the electorate to choose a President.

However, Fitzgerald will make the real economy issue of his party next year, no matter what may be said of his motives, and Fitzgerald, parliamentarian and Democrat, thoroughly understands his business. He has been studying government finances for twelve years, beginning at the very outset of his career in the House of Representatives. Coming to Congress at the age of twenty-six, he discovered, so he says, that the men of commanding influence understood parliamentary law—that is, how and when to get things done—and how the money of the government is obtained and distributed. Thus he immediately specialized in rules and appropriations.

"I remembered something that Fox said about his self-training in the House of Commons," Fitzgerald told me, walking away from the mantelpiece and the group photograph and sitting down at his desk. "Fox owned up to speaking each night but two during his first five years in Parliament, and, looking back, was sorry that he had not spoken every night. So I followed Fox in one respect, at least, and was regarded, I know, as a nuisance. Old members are indulgent when a new member merely wants to take the floor and make a speech, but if he attempts to help run the business of the House he is thought to be an unbearable upstart. I ignorantly trampled on traditions and became a bore. I now realize, but by daily practice I learned a good deal about law making."

The sister Fitzgerald, who came from

Ireland when a child, and Hugh McLaughlin, the "boss" of Brooklyn, worked together in politics. Dying, Fitzgerald left his family in lean circumstances. John Joseph was six years old. "I was weakly," he said, "and remember going from one doctor's office to another to be examined and given medicine. I sold newspapers in the streets to earn money for a pair of rubber boots. When I was eleven years old I was sent to the Sacred Heart Academy, which was in the country. The doctors said I ought to leave the city and get pure air and plenty of sunshine. At fourteen I returned to New York and entered Manhattan College, being helped financially by a relative. Then I read law, working in an office at \$3 a week and attending lectures daily.

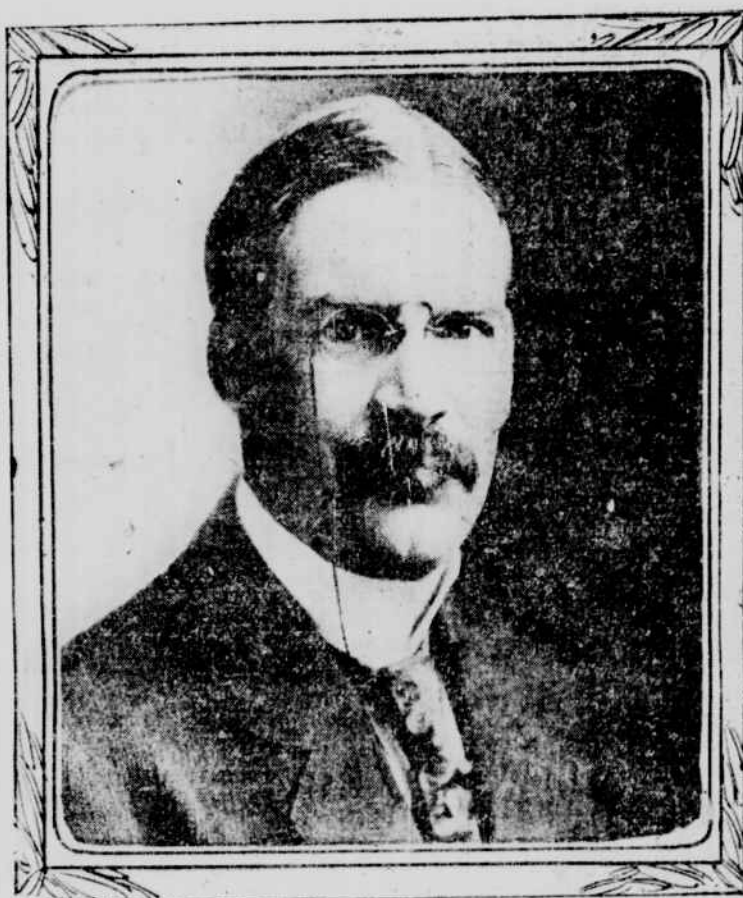
"Those who knew me were amazed, and amused, I suppose, when they heard what I was doing. I might get along in medicine or in one of the religious orders of my Church, they said, but I was timid and clumsy at speech and would fall in a profession where talking was an important part of business. I was admitted to the bar when I was twenty-one years old, nevertheless, and soon afterward the Regents of the State of New York gave me the degree of Bachelor of Laws cum laude."

"What was your cash capital at that time?"

"I had just enough money to buy a return ticket from New York to Poughkeepsie, where the bar examination was held. I kept on working for \$3 a week, but within a year Thomas F. Grady, the State Senator, took me into his office and paid me \$10 a month. In a little while I formed a partnership with a college friend. I got into politics and was active in several societies connected with the Catholic Church.



MRS. JOHN JOSEPH FITZGERALD AND THE ULTIMATE CONSUMERS WHO KEEP MR. FITZGERALD "BUSY WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS OF LIFE."



REPRESENTATIVE JOHN J. FITZGERALD.
Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations in the next Congress.
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"LAST YEAR THE MINES OF THE UNITED STATES PRODUCED \$96,000,000 OF GOLD AND ABOUT \$28,000,000 OF SILVER, BUT THAT WAS NOT ENOUGH BY A CONSIDERABLE MARGIN TO MAINTAIN THE NAVY AND PAY FOR OUR NEW SHIPS."

"My young friends went to Hugh McLaughlin and told him they wanted to send me to Congress. He remembered my father and gave his consent. 'The Boss,' as we all called him, ruled the politics of Brooklyn for many years. He was a retired man, and when delegations came to speak for a candidate he would listen and then tell a story. If the delegation knew his ways they would interpret the story and get his answer. Like all the old leaders in New York and Brooklyn, he had worked his way up by a good use of his physical strength.

"When he was an old man a group of minor politicians trapped into the auction room where he had his desk and demanded the nomination of a certain candidate. He stood on his feet, expanded his chest, threw back his head, couched up his fists and said: 'If you had come around here ten years ago demanding that I do anything I would have knocked all of you down and then thrown you into the street.' I never met him until after I was nominated. When I called to pay my respects he quietly remarked that he had expected to see a little boy in 'short pants.'"

"Have the appropriations of Congress," I asked, "become so large as to be dangerous?"

"Well, they are more than \$1,000,000,000 a year—that is, putting the figures in another way, they are more than one



"THE EXPENDITURES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ARE EQUAL TO THE SUM OF THE MONEY OBTAINED FOR ALL THE OATS AND WHEAT GROWN IN THE UNITED STATES."

work. They are to spend more than \$50,000,000 to improve their wagon roads. There is a serious suggestion that Congress shall set aside great areas of forests along the Atlantic Coast that the purity of the water supply for many towns and cities may be secured. The state of New York, by a very large expenditure in the Adirondack Mountains, is paying to safeguard its own water supply. Jamaica Bay is being improved, and business men in New York City are helping to foot the bill.

"Elsewhere, however, Washington is asked for money with which to pay for all kinds of local projects. I think that when a state or region desires help from the national government it should be willing to meet a part of the expense—to pay its share toward the thing it wants and the thing that will increase its prosperity. In that way pressure on the Treasury in Washington would be substantially lessened and the cost of the work would at the same time be cheapened."

"Where should the big cuts be made in the money bills of Congress?" I inquired.

"I would begin with our military expenses. The people do not realize that our naval establishment cost the tremendous sum of \$136,000,000 in 1910, as against the sufficient sum of \$22,000,000 in 1894. Dewey's victory at the battle of Manila Bay, let me add, is costing the American people an immense sum of money every year. In the mean time we are annually spending \$100,000,000 on our army, as against \$24,000,000 in 1894. Pensions, a war charge, amount to \$152,000,000 a year. The three items, the navy, the army and pensions, are paying interest on the war debts of 1861-65 and 1898. Moreover, we are supporting the military schools at West Point and Annapolis and are spending about \$8,000,000 a year on fortifications.

THINKS ARMY TOO EXPENSIVE.

"We talk about Europe groaning under the burden of military taxes. If we are not doing some groaning ourselves we ought to begin right off. The gross revenues and the military expenses of Great Britain, Germany, France and the United States are not so widely different, even though the army and navy of Great Britain are almost three times larger than our own.

"Because European countries are draining their treasuries and grinding the faces of their taxpayers we must imitate them, now that we are a world power and have become the sole pro-

New Taxes, He Thinks, Will Have To Be Paid in Order to Keep Up with Federal Expenditures.

War with them, you understand, means opportunity for heroic deeds and personal advancement. Also, they are naturally proud of their profession. So are lawyers and physicians. But experts can be extravagant and visionary. Occasionally they are funny.

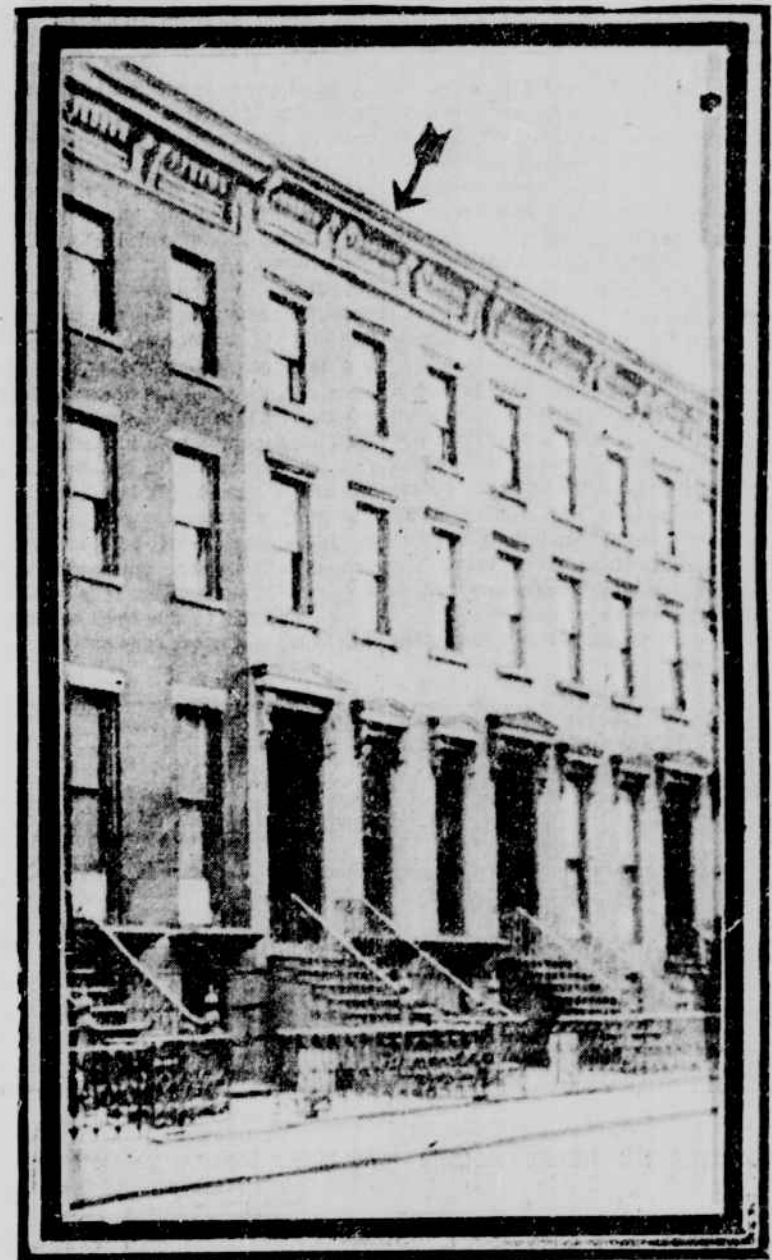
"I went down the Chesapeake Bay once as a member of a committee. Military gentlemen had pressed upon Congress the urgent necessity of building and fortifying an island between Cape Charles and Cape Henry. There was a shoal, they said, that could be placed out with cement and masonry. When we got down there, however, we discovered that the military experts did not know whether the shoal was mud, sand or rock. But they had the cost figured out.

"Suppose," said one of them, "that Great Britain and England should declare war on the United States?" The proposition was rather grotesque, but I

been authorized. Some of them are under way. They are half for use and half for monumental purposes. When one of them is outgrown it cannot be employed to advantage either for stores or offices. Without saying there are too many buildings, I would criticize the architecture that makes them unfit for any but government occupancy."

"Would it be better if all the appropriations made by the House of Representatives came from a single committee?" I asked.

"I think it would. The Committee on Appropriations prepares supply bills for about \$250,000,000. It does nothing else. Appropriations for the army, the navy, the Indians, the Postoffice Department, the Department of Agriculture and for rivers and harbors are prepared by other committees. Primarily, these committees were created to consider legislation pertaining to the various government de-



ARROW INDICATES THE MODEST HOME OF MR. FITZGERALD, AT NO. 418 PACIFIC STREET, BROOKLYN.

"did not want to be impolite and so kept quiet. They would put an army of 100,000 men on transports," the expert went on solemnly to say, "and send it to Cuba. From Cuba the army would be brought right into Chesapeake Bay and disembarked. Then it could march on Washington and the other cities of the East."

"In the meanwhile," I asked, "what would we be doing? It took England three years to get 100,000 men into Africa. It would probably take a year or two to land an army of that size in the United States by way of Cuba. Your hypothetical invasion," I said, "is not particularly impressive." Neither was his island. The appropriation was not made. However, the proposition may be living yet. It is possible that some Congress in the future will authorize the building of the island.

"War seems to be an attractive prospect to many Americans other than soldiers and interested manufacturers," Mr. Fitzgerald said in conclusion. "They do not stop to think that even in time of peace the support of our army is equal in money to the yearly gold production of the whole country, including Alaska. Last year the mines of the United States produced \$96,000,000 of gold and about \$28,000,000 of silver, not enough by a considerable margin to maintain the navy and pay for our new ships."

"Is too much money being appropriated for public buildings?" I asked.

"About five hundred buildings have

partments. As it is, most of their time is now given to the writing of bills appropriating money. Furthermore, the Naval Committee, by a perfectly natural process, has become the representative of the navy, the Military Committee the representative of the army, and so on.

"It seems to me that all appropriations, with the exception, perhaps, of those for rivers and harbors, should emanate from one committee, which would examine the estimates of the different departments and write its bill in a full understanding of the revenues of the government and the government's legitimate needs. Responsibility would then be centralized, and not scattered. Money, I am sure, would be saved; and all interests, I think, would be certain of fair treatment."

"Fifty years ago the total expenditures of the government amounted to \$96,540,000. Twenty-five years ago they were \$242,485,000, a sum that is now required each year for our army, our navy and our scheme of coast defenses. Militarism is a disease of nations. The germ came over the ocean after we went to war with Spain. We have been suffering financially ever since. As an everyday proposition, if a man were to spend a large part of his daily wages or income for pistols, guns and bowie knives the Sheriff ultimately would get the residue of his substance. Likewise, there would be a commission in lunacy to sit upon his case."

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What I Know of Fish and Fishing

(By Charles Stuart Moody—Copyright by the American Press Service, 1911.)

SOMEWHERE lurking in the soul of every rightly constituted man is the love of angling. From the country boy with his willow pole and cotton line to the city man with his expensive bamboo and jeweled reel the love of the "gentle art" is within us. We love to steal away from the heat and the turmoil of the city out to where the streams run and lakes shimmer in the sunlight, to where the old forest trees throw checkered shades upon the calm water, and where the birds sing in tune with the infinite.

Over thirty years of prowling about the streams and lakes of the great West has taught me something of the lore of wood and stream, something of fish and their habits, of fishing and its pursuit. Out of all this mass of information I have gleaned some few things not usually set down in books, among others, that it is not all of fishery merely to catch fish. There is something more than filling a creel or playing a monster fish; there is the intercourse with nature and the communion with the very God of things. All these things I must ask your permission to sandwich in between items of tackle, habits of fish and places where they dwell. If these things do not seem to you to be relevant to the subject you are at liberty to blot them out, but if you do not see them when you are fishing and feel them as I feel them, then you are no true brother of the angle.

First, before I tell you where to fish, what to fish for or how to fish, I must advise you who to fish with.

Some one said: "God gave us our parents, but we can choose our friends."

Nowhere is this more true than in choosing the companion with whom you are to fish. If you wish to see a man, "stripped of the mask that all men wear" take him

either fishing or camping. A man may be

laced beneath the highly polished veneer of civilization; he may be the leading banker, even the pastor of your favorite church, and yet be no fit companion for a fishing

jaunt. He may possess the graces of a "Clisterfield" while in polite society, yet develop the manners of a Digger Indian when in the woods.

I think it was Shakespeare who said: "The friends that thou shak'st, and their adoption tried, grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel." Nowhere can you try that adoption better than to take him fishing. When you have found the man with whom you can fish, one who takes his share of the water, be it good or bad, who accepts the petty trials and disappointments incident to the art with a smile and a jest, who is ready to replenish your store of tackle from his own, in short, who is your pal, then leave him through thick and thin, for he is more than a fishing companion—he is a man.

On the other hand, if you should chance to go fishing with some creature miscalled a man who is first cousin to the hog, shun him in every walk of life, for somewhere in his anatomy he will show the "yellow."

Never be coaxed, lured or enticed into going with him again. That Indian was wise who said: "White man fool Indian once, white man's fault; white man fool Indian twice, Indian's fault." You might be excusable for going fishing with a bear, once, but a second time admits of no excuse.

There is one other thing about fishing companions before I quit. How about your wife? Did it ever occur to you that there was a wistful look in the little lady's face as she saw you getting out your tackle and donning your fishing togs? My dearest fishing chum is one certain little lady with

dark brown eyes, eyes that look love and sympathy into mine whenever I mention fishing. She can stand waist deep in the water and cast her fly with as true an aim as any man with whom I have fished.

Ask your wife. You will never know how much enjoyment you get out of life until you invite her to go fishing with you. She may not be an expert angler, but heaven's name, how long ago was it since you could not cast a fly anywhere within sixty feet of where you aimed it? I venture she will learn, and if no knowledge of women counts for anything she will learn a great deal quicker than you did.

DEAR DENIAL.

"The late Archbishop Ryan," said a Philadelphian, "used to rebuke in Lent those whose fastings and abstinences were more a matter of form than a matter of discomfort."

"I once heard the good Archbishop tell of two plump gourmets who were discussing during Lent their favorite fast dishes."

"Trout," said the first, with a sigh, "has gone up, thanks to the high cost of living and the Lenten demand."

"Yes," said the other, "isn't it terrible? Oysters, terrapin, teal duck, wine, caviar—everything is dearer!" Indeed, I often wonder these days where one is to get the money to fast with."

FACT AND FANCY.

Those who make ducks and drakes of their property are geese and ganders. War means hardship for all soldiers and hard taxes for all citizens.